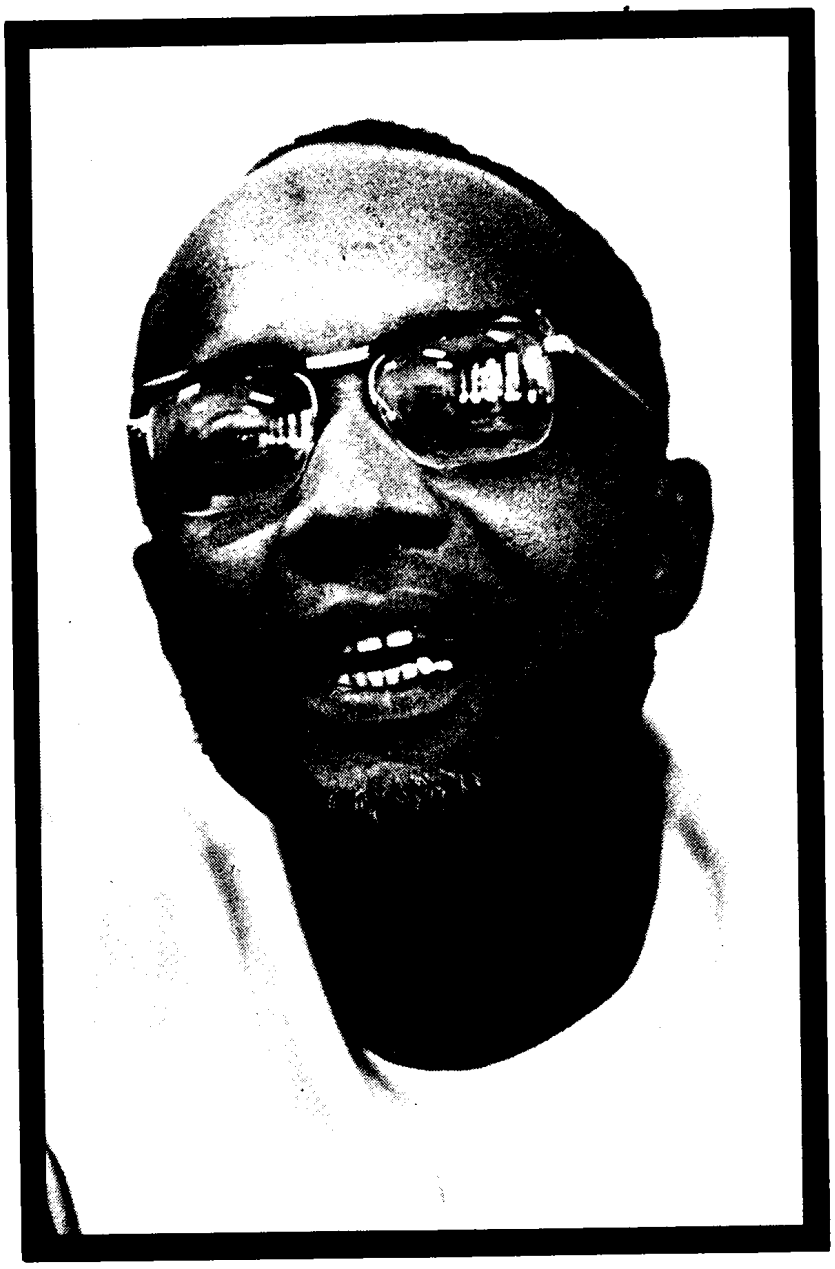

AMILCAR CABRAL

1925 - 1973

LNS

#496 January 24, 1973

Packet #496
January 24, 1973

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410 First Street S.E., Washington D.C. 20003.
Phone: (202) 544-0447.

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AMILCAR CABRAL ASSASSINATED: Continued from pg. 2

struggle," the old man reminded them. "People can change, After all, Cabral was a bourgeois intellectual before the beginning of the struggle and he gave up his job as an agronomist to make the revolution."

In the end, Amilcar Cabral gave up more than his job as an agronomist to make the revolution. But he gave, and won, far more than he gave up.

-30-

[Note to editors: The packets listed at the beginning of the story contain photos and articles written by LNS people who traveled in Guinea (Bissau). If you don't have those packets, get in touch with us.]

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IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON.

[See cover graphic to go along with this story as well as articles and photos in packets #326, #329, #324, and #329.]

"LEARN FROM LIFE, LEARN FROM OUR PEOPLE, LEARN FROM BOOKS, LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS ..."

AMILCAR CABRAL ASSASSINATED

by Andy Mars

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)--One of Africa's and the world's greatest leaders died on January 20, when Amilcar Cabral was gunned down in front of his home in Conakry, the Republic of Guinea. As Secretary General of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC), Cabral, more than any other single person, symbolized, spoke for, and carried forward the struggle against white supremacy in Africa.

Cabral, who was 48, was killed by soldiers of the Portuguese colonial army, which PAIGC has battled successfully since 1963.

Posing as deserters, to take advantage of Cabral's and the party's policy of generosity, they had been brought out of the war zone in Guinea (Bissau) to Conakry, the capital of the Republic of Guinea, directly to the south of Guinea (Bissau). After murdering Cabral, they seized other leaders of the party, tortured them and attempted to kidnap them. The Republic of Guinea Navy stopped the boat in which they were trying to reach the Portuguese base in Bissau. The other PAIGC members were released and Cabral's murderers captured.

Cabral's death didn't get much attention in this country. Not too many people had even heard of him. I remember the first time I saw him at Kennedy Airport in New York. He came through the swinging doors, practically alone, no fuss, no fanfare--a small man, with eyeglasses and an expression of alert curiousity, wearing the black and white knitted cap he and other PAIGC militants frequently wore in photographs I had seen.

Three or four of us from Liberation News Service were the only people there to greet him. Just about all the other people on his flight, vacationers returning from Africa, got more of a welcome. None of them seemed aware that this man who had flown with them was anybody special.

But throughout Africa, and much of the rest of the world, Amilcar Cabral was recognized as an important political figure.

Under his leadership, the PAIGC guerrilla army has driven Portuguese troops from more than three-quarters of the territory of its small West African colony. And within this liberated territory, even while fighting to drive the Portuguese from their remaining strongholds, and defending against bombing attacks, PAIGC has established itself as the functioning government of more than half the people of the country.

Despite material shortages and the difficulties of transporting all supplies over long distances on people's heads and backs, PAIGC has provided people with medical care, education, a legal system, and a system of democratic government--things which the Portuguese had never even attempted during over 400 years of colonial rule.

To the people throughout all this territory, peasant villagers for the most part, soldiers and party militants, Amilcar Cabral was the acknowledged leader--and far more than that. For he was the first leader of a country that had never existed before, only now emerging out of the struggle for independence and out of the common history of colonial oppression.

Traveling in Guinea (Bissau), as I did a little over two years ago, you hear a lot of singing, which is in keeping with one of Cabral's principles: "Nothing in this [dedication to the struggle]," he wrote, "is incompatible with the joy of living or with love for life and its amusements."

In these songs, Cabral's name comes up again and again. Some of them even refer to previous efforts of the Portuguese to kill him: "Cabral came to the country and the Portuguese got all stirred up, but to no avail. It is no use bombarding us. What you have to do is give us our land back."

But Cabral was no remote leader. An amazingly large percentage of the people in Guinea (Bissau) have actually met him at one time or another. He didn't believe in leading from the sidelines. Much of his time was spent travelling inside the liberated territory listening to the villagers and informing them of new developments, as accessible as he was loved and admired.

At one of the first villages I passed through during my visit, an old man, rumored to be the oldest on the entire southern front, gave a long account of the hardships he and others had endured under the Portuguese. After he had finished, he took one of the party militants who was travelling with me aside and explained that his greatest remaining wish in life was to travel to Conakry, "to meet Cabral and see how well the party works there since I already know how well it works here." When we returned through the village several weeks later, on our way back to the border and eventually Conakry, the old man joined our column.

Cabral's attitude toward this constant interaction with the people of the country was expressed in another of the principles he urged on party activists: "Learn from life, learn from our people, learn from books, learn from the experience of others. Never stop learning."

He himself, had already learned more than most people could hope to learn in a full lifetime. Trained as an agronomist at a Portuguese university, he was one of only 14 people from Guinea (Bissau) to receive a university education during the more than 400 years of Portuguese rule. During the fifties, he turned his attention increasingly to the struggle for independence. Early attempts to organize an independence movement in the cities suffered a crushing blow when, on August 3, 1959, Portuguese troops fired into a group of striking dockworkers, killing 50 of them.

It was only following this massacre that Cabral and other leaders of PAIGC started to try mobilizing the peasantry, who have since become the backbone of the guerrilla movement. Cut off, as PAIGC was,

from information about other revolutionary movements and theories, PAIGC had to feel its own way through this dramatic shift in strategy. As Cabral remarked some years later, he never saw any of the works of Mao Tse-tung which elaborate on the revolutionary potential of the peasantry, until 1960.

Since that time, of course, PAIGC has forged close ties with other revolutionary movements, exchanging experiences, and adapting them to their own particular situation. But Cabral had also become a highly respected revolutionary theorist in his own right, his writing published in many languages. In the words of one party activist, "I'm not saying that Cabral must be another Marx or Lenin, but that he and our party must create a socialism specific to our own conditions." In that task, they have been highly successful.

Cabral's death came at a time when anti-Portuguese forces in Mozambique and Angola as well as Guinea (Bissau) have been making significant advances. In Mozambique, FRELIMO has opened a new front, pushing closer to the ports which are vital to the colonial economy, and threatening to cut off once and for all, Portugal's chances to develop its cherished hydroelectric dam at Cabora Bassa.

In Angola, plans for an alliance between two connecting liberation movements may result in the creation of a broad new front along the border between Zaire (formerly the Congo) and Angola. This border had formerly been inaccesible to MPLA, the movement which has carried out practically all the actual fighting in recent years.

And in Guinea (Bissau) itself, PAIGC recently held its first national assembly of representatives elected from all the liberated territory--an important step on the road to a declaration of independence. In addition, for the first time, members of the UN Committee on Decolonization actually visited some of the territory which PAIGC had decolonized by armed struggled, and returned to verify in their official report the fact that PAIGC already is a functioning government of an extensive territory.

Somehow, it seems particularly sad that Amilcar Cabral should have been killed at a time when his cause is nearing victory. Certainly it is particularly pointless, even from the Portuguese point of view. For the time has long since past when the death of any one man could check the struggle for independence in Guinea and Cape Verde.

Amilcar Cabral will long be remembered and mourned. Among other things he will be remembered as a man who was far too wise to desire for himself any more power or esteem than he deserved as part of the whole, far greater than himself. The people of his country held great love and respect for him, but hardly a blind adoration and dependence. Something that I heard an old peasant say in one of the villages I visited comes to mind. He had just listened to several other people from his village exclaim their amazement at having me, an American, there among them, especially when they knew that the U.S. government supplied the Portuguese with napalm and other weapons.

"We shouldn't be so surprised that this American is prepared to make sacrifices to help our

[CONTINUED ON INSIDE FRONT COVER---------- ----- -]

(Note to editors: Be sure to see graphics section for photographs to go with this story.)

DEMONSTRATORS OUTNUMBER SUPPORTERS AT NIXON INAUGURATION: 100,000 TURN OUT FOR DC RALLY

LIBERATION News Service

"At every turn, we have been beset by those who find everything wrong with America and little that is right. But I am confident that this will not be the judgement of history on these remarkable times in which we are privileged to live."

--from Richard Nixon's second Inaugural address, January 20, 1973.

WASHINGTON (LNS)--As happens every four years on January 20, the East steps of the Capitol building were carefully decked out in the finest of red, white and blue clothing, ready for the inauguration of the President of the United States. This year over 120,000 people streamed into Washington. However, 100,000 of those people were there not for the traditional swearing-in ceremony, but to demonstrate.

The carefully orchestrated inaugural ceremony featured martial music, cannon fire, prayer and the tightest security in the history of U.S. inaugurations providing a most appropriate ceremony for Richard Nixon to vow again to "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

With him on the stage, of course, were his family, as well as the family of his vice president, Spiro Agnew. In the dignitaries' gallery there sat only 300 of the 535 members of Congress; conspicuously absent were 14 of the 15 black representatives in the House.

And, as Nixon delivered his 17 minute Inaugural Address hitting the usual themes of "work, not welfare" and "a lasting peace," 20,000 loyal Republicans, who had been invited to pay up to $100 a seat for the brief ceremony, applauded politely but without enthusiasm.

A lack of enthusiasm, however, was just one of many things to go against Nixon on this day that was supposed to be his. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger began administering the oath of office to Nixon; meanwhile shouts of "murderer" and "Nixon, Agnew, you can't hide, We charge you with genocide" could be heard at an SDS (PL)-Yippie rally two blocks away.

And as the Inaugural parade (a combination Disneyland and football halftime show) left the Capitol and started creeping towards Nixon's bullet-proof viewing box in front of the White House, another embarassment was evident; the bleachers constructed for people willing to pay from $5 to $50 to watch the parade were only a little over half full. And there wouldn't have been that many if boy scouts had not been sent around town to give away unsold tickets on Saturday morning.

But even more glaring than the lack of Nixon supporters was the number of people on the parade route ready to protest the upcoming "four more years." Clusters of people with banners and NLF flags were scattered all along the route. The heaviest concentration of demonstrators was on a two block stretch between 13th and 15th street on both sides

of Pennsylvania Avenue.

People started gathering there as early as 9 am (the parade began about 1 pm) and by the time the head of the paradepassed that point, they were ten to twenty deep in some places and numbered in the thousands.

As the time for Nixon to pass drew closer and the shouting and surging of the crowd became more intense, extra secret servicemen and police were brought in to beef up defenses But still, when Nixon rolled into view--standing up in the open-topped limousine, smiling, and waving to the crowd--he was greeted at first with a massive chant of "Nixon you liar, sign the cease fire," that soon gave way to enraged screams like "fuck you, you murderer."

Apples, oranges, and eggs started to fly, forcing the secret service men running and leaping into the air to deflect the garbage.

Throughout it all, Nixon continued smiling and waving at the crowd--and at the TV cameras--as if the people were hurling rose petals and words of praise Agnew,and other dignitaries riding in the cars that followed, were not so skilled at ignoring the assault. Most sat still in their cars, refusing to stand and expose themselves. Their facial expressions ranged from fear and shock to rage.

Once Nixon's car had moved far enough down the street, a high school band from Florida, standing on the corner where most of the demonstrators had gathered, struck up a rousing number and the cops moved in to clear people out. Despite the fact that police used clubs to rougly push the crowd back, people were right back on the curb of Pennsylvania Avenue at the first opportunity, greeting each segment of the parade with appropriate chants and yells.

There was plenty to complain about White people dressed as day-glo Native Americans war-danced down Pennsylvania Avenue. Very few blacks could be seen on the floats in theparade, which was supposed to illustrate the "Spirit of [19]76." Most of the women on the floats wore short skirts or less in the freezing weather They smiled and waved at the crowd and the president, who was delighted with all that passed before him

Most appalling, perhaps, were the floats intended as monuments to Nixon. Nixon's passion to be acknowledged by history as a great leader was clearly in the design of all the inaugural events.

One huge float labeled " A Generation of Peace" had huge photos showing Nixon as the "Great Diplomat" (with Chou-En Lai and Leonid Breshnev), the "Friend of Young People" (pointing out the 18 year old vote), and Nixon, the ecologically concerned (simply a picture of a mountain with the caption "Environment")

At the same time that the thousands of demonstrators were jeering Nixon's parade, close to 100,000 people were marching to Washington Monument in a demonstration sponsored jointly by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) and the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC).

In his speech at the Washington rally, PCPJ spokesman Sid Peck said that the Vietnamese had sent various messages expressing solidarity with the demonstrators. The following message comes from Ly Van Sau, spokesman for the Paris delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

"We would like to express our warmest greetings and our deepest gratitude to all you people who are staging today demonstrations for the end of U.S. aggression in Vietnam, for the recognition of the national, fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people.

"You all know that the policy of armed forces followed by the American administration for many years has been unable to bring our people to their knees and you may be sure that the Vietnamese people will continue their just struggle till they reach independence and freedom.

"Now there are still two possibilities: war or peace depends fully on the attitude of the U.S. administration. In case of a peace treaty acceptable to all sides, the questions of the execution of that treaty, the strict observation of that treaty, will also be a very important problem.

"That is why I would like to ask all Americans of goodwill to all be very vigilant, to be always side by side with the Vietnamese people in their just struggle and you may be sure that the Vietnamese people appreciate very much your courageous struggle.

"And I would like to repeat once more our warmest congratulations and our deepest gratitude to you all. Thank you."

Earlier in the day over 2500 members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) had marched with as many supporters from the gates of Arlington Cemetery to the War Memorial in Washington where they heard brief speeches by VVAW member Barry Romo, recently returned from a trip to Hanoi, and Tran Than Tuygt, a Vietnamese woman who lives in Washington. At the War Memorial, the vets held a ceremonial signing of the 9 Point Peace Treaty and hundreds lined up add their names after a disabled vet in a wheelchair had signed first.

The fact that there was such a massive turnout in Washington after a solid week of peace rumors seemed to say that people didn't trust the president to follow through on his promises of peace. And, judging from the variety of signs and chants-- attacking Nixon's policies on the media, welfare, the economy, etc --the war wasn't the only issue at hand. Even if Nixon had signed the cease-fire agreement before the inauguration, chances are that there still would have been plenty of people demonstrating in Washington on the twentieth.

In terms of number and spirit the day belonged to the demonstrators, not to Nixon. Though the

parade and the ceremonies were not totally disrupted, the crowd that came to Washington reflected not the "mandate" Nixon talks about, but rather a warning that his next four years won't slip by unchallenged.

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[Note to Editors: The following round-up of anti-inauguration demonstrations throughout the country and abroad is by no means complete, but it is all we could get together by our deadline. We'd like to find out about others, so please call us as soon as you can. We'd like photographs too, if you have them. Thanks.]

ROUND-UP OF ANTI-INAUGURATION DEMONSTRATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)--Although Inauguration Day, 1973 proved to be the largest anti-war protest held in Washington in almost two years, the protests were not limited to the 100,000 who traveled to the capital. All throughout the United States-- from small village greens to large cities -- people came together to voice their anger at the war, and the prospects of four more years under Nixon.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, the demonstrations kicked off early with an Anti Coronation Ball held on January 19 in the State Capitol Rotunda. Although organizers of the Ball (The United Front to End the War) were initially denied permission to use the Capitol Rotunda, they quickly took the matter to Federal District court, citing denial of rights under the first and fourteenth amendments to use the public facility.

The court ruled that the Rotunda could not be used for political purposes, but said the event could go on there if there were no political speeches or presentations. But despite the ruling, the ball did have one speaker, Dennis Banks, National Field Director for the American Indian Movement. "There will be no political implications in what I say tonight, " said Banks, "because I am telling you things that are true."

Besides his remarks on the war, Banks talked about the wide-scale discrimination against Indians in Utah State government. "I found out there are four Indians in the State Capitol. One is a full-blooded Indian, one is a half-breed, one is quarter Indian, and the other one is a statue."

After his speech, Banks invited people to join in a round dance which quickly grew to several hundred people (including Vietnam Veterans Against the War who wore Nixon masks) dancing and chanting throughout two floors of the capitol building.

On the west coast, there were several demonstrations on Inauguration Day itself. 1500 people came out in beautiful sunny, 70-degree San Diego weather in a march led by third world people and women. The demonstrators moved throughout the downtown part of the city, past the police station and the jail (where prisoners gave clenched fists from their windows) to Balboa Park for a short rally. The demonstrators reported friendly responses from bystanders on their route.

In San Francisco, 1500 spirited demonstrators joined in a march organized by the area's Anti-Imperialist Coalition and San Jose anti-war activists, some 50 miles away, held their own inauguration protest.

2000 to 3000 people marched to the Wisconsin State Capitol on Saturday, for a noontime rally. And in Chicago, despite freezing weather and heavy police surveillance, 3000 to 4000 people marched and rallied in the city's downtown area. Over 150 Vietnam Veterans Against the War were there along with several active-duty GIs. "Sign the Treaty," was the main theme of the demonstration.

The Atlanta Anti-Imperialist Coalition organized a "Sign the Treaty" march for their city too, and 150-200 people moved to the State Capitol for a rally. Mongomery, Alabama had its first anti-war march as about 100 people walked to the sound of a funeral dirge six blocks up the main street to the Capitol building. Escorted by motorcycle policemen, they were led by a dozen men wearing black robes, their faces painted white, their hands red.

Along a portion of Route 4 in Teaneck New Jersey, 100 demonstrators stood some 20 feet apart. Wearing black armbands, they carried signs saying "Inaugurate Peace," "Stop the Killing," and "Sign the Peace Treaty."

Anti-war, anti-Nixon demonstrations were by no means restricted to the United States either. In Paris, on Inauguration night, thousands of French leftists headed for the United States Embassy. Rifle-toting riot police kept all but a few hundred from reaching their goal, but not without a fight. Protestors hurled molotov cocktails that set a police van and several private cars on fire, and the police retaliated with tear gas grenades that filled a nearby railroad station and major department stores with blinding fumes.

Police trucks, parked bumper to bumper, cordoned off the Embassy and more than 1000 police were on hand to protect the building.

Other more peaceful rallies, some as large as 12,000 people, were held in London, Rome, the Hague, Copenhagen, Oslo, and cities in Sweden, Australia and New Zealand.

Although Nixon stated in his inaugural speech that "Because of America's bold initiatives, 1972 will be long remembered as the year of the greatest progress since the end of World War II toward a lasting peace in the world," much of the "world" did not agree.

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T.V. comedian Dan Rowan, commenting recently on the death of the six year old "Laugh-in" show taped in beautiful downtown Burbank, agreed with critics that the show had lost its healthy irreverance. "But what they don't understand is that there is nothing left to revere in this country, so its pretty hard to be irreverent." ----30----

CHRYSLER CORPORATION INDICTED FOR SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PORTUGAL

DETROIT (LNS)-- A federal grand jury has indicted the Chrysler Corporation for shipping military engines to Portugal without U.S. government clearance.

The indictment charges that in 1968 and 1970, Chrysler shipped 100 militarized HT361-212's to Portugal, apparently for use in Portugal's attempts to build a version of the XM 706, an amphibious armored car which the U.S. has used in Vietnam. Portugal has been trying to obtain the vehicle since 1965 for use in its own colonial wars in Africa: in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

The United Nations has placed a ban on all sale of military equipment to Portugal and one U.N. committee, following a visit by some of its members to territory liberated from Portuguese control, has recognized the liberation movement of Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde as "the only authentic representative of the people of the Territory."

But such considerations have never prevented U.S. corporations from trying to turn a quick profit by supplying Portugal with items like helicopters (Bell. Co.), aircraft for use as troop transports (Boeing) and jeeps (Kaiser). When Portugal added chemical defoliants to its arsenal in Angola in 1970, U.S. exports of herbicides to Portugal jumped over 300% in less than a year.

Chrysler seems to have made a mistake in going ahead with their deal without bothering to funnel it through a European or African subsidiary as other companies have done, after the State Department refused to give them an export license back in 1965.

Or maybe their mistake was in not renewing their application for the license with the Nixon State Department after 1968. U.S. News and World Report noted in 1969 that "For years the Portuguese complained that the U.S., their ally in Europe, worked against them in Africa. There is less of that kind of talk now and the Portuguese expect the relationship to keep on improving under Nixon."

At any rate, the indictment helps to confirm charges leveled time and again by the liberation movements in the Portuguese colonies that Portugal's military machine runs on U.S. parts.

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"Because of America's bold initiatives, 1972 will long remembered as the year of the greatest progress since the end of World War II toward a lasting peace."

* * *

"Let us remember that America was built not by government, but by people -- not by welfare, but by work -- not by shirking responsibility, but by seeking it." --Richard Nixon, on his inauguration, 1973

"THEY'RE OUT TO CONVICT PAT CHENOWETH AT ANY COST:" USS RANGER SABOTAGE TRIAL MOVED TO THE PHILIPPINES

SAN FRANCISCO (LNS)-- The trial of sailor Patrick Chenoweth accused of sabotaging the aircraft carrier USS Ranger last summer, took a turn for the worse with a series of startling and unprecedented rulings by the military judge.

In rapid succession, Captain James Keys ruled that 1) the trial would be moved to Subic Bay Naval Station, the Philippines, for the rest of the proceedings; 2) the war in Vietnam is legal, regardless of the lack of Congressional declaration, making possible a charge of "sabotage in time of war," and 3) the government need not prove that Chenoweth intended to interfere with the national defense in order to convict him on that charge.

At no time did Captain Keys deliberate more than five minutes before ruling.

Chenoweth, 21, of Puyallup, Washington, is charged with placing a paint scraper and two large bolts in the reduction gears of the Ranger's #4 main engine. Over $800,000 in damage resulted, delaying the ship's departure for Vietnam for almost three months.

If convicted, of wartime sabotage, Chenoweth faces 30 years in jail. He faces 3 years in jail if convicted of the other charge against him-- destruction of government property.

After the change of venue ruling, which will be appealed to the Court of Military Appeals as soon as possible, civilian defense attorney Eric. A. Seitz remarked to the press, "There's no subtlety any longer. They're clearly out to convict Pat Chenoweth at any cost, only they'd prefer to do it thousands of miles away where neither the public and the press can see or do anything about it."

Moving the case to the Philippines will effectively eliminate the chance of mobilizing the GI movement here around Chenoweth's defense. That movement has contributed substantially to winning acquittal for black GI Billy Dean Smith, as well as obtaining reduced charges recently for the Camp McCoy 3.

And, given the recent indefinate extension of [illegible] in the Philippines by the Marcos' regime, it's clear that GIs stationed there won't be able to do much either. People active in the GI [illegible] movement were among the first targets of repression after the Marcos regime declared martial law last September.

Attorney Seitz has stated all along in court that because of his previous association with defending GIs in the Philippines, as an attorney with the National Lawyers Guild, he would seriously risk arrest by returning. A colleague of his, Doug Sorenson, and two 'legal' workers who worked at the office Seitz set up in Olongapo City, were arrested, imprisoned, threatened with a military trial under Philippine martial law, and eventually deported back to this country.

"They've moved the trial to the one place in

the world where they know I cannot safely go," Seitz continued. "And not only will Pat now be denied a public trial, but he will now be tried by a court consisting of persons assigned to aircraft carriers involved in the war--calculated to be least sympathetic and fair in a case of this nature-- and without civilain counsel."

From a legal standpoint, moving a military trial from the US to a location elsewhere is totally unprecedented and, according to Seitz, violates the civilian canon that an individual should be tried in the community where the crime occured.

The prosecution claims that it would be too difficult for the 4000 man carrier to operate with the approximately 25 witnesses involved in this case back in California participating in the court-martial.

If the Court of Military Appeal rules in the Navy's favor, it could set a precedent under which many controversial military cases could be tried overseas, simply if the prosecution says it is more convenient for them to do so.

The military judge's lightning decision that the U.S. is in a "de facto state of war" was another blow to Chenoweth's defense. His defense dommittee had arranged for testimony by numerous witnesses concerning the war's legality.

Many different types of people-- Navy and Air Force pilots, a former high ranking official in the Diem regime, former members of the C.I.A., and members of previous administrations including former Attorney General Ramsey Clark -- were scheduled to testify about the illegal conduct of the war and formulation of American policies

* * *

Rulings triggered a wave of indignation in the Bay Area. After Friday's hearing, petitions which had been circulating in the Bay Area began pouring into the Defense Committee headquarters. Bay Area Congressman Ronald Dellums (D) said the court had "violated many of the basic precepts subtending American judicial procedure" and wrote strong statements to the press and Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations.

The Berkeley City Council passed 8-to-1 a resolution condemning the Navy for moving the trial.

On the following Monday and Tuesday, January 8 and 9, Seitz moved that all charges be dropped on the grounds that by refusing to Seitz assurances of safety in the Philippines, they were forcing him to remain at home, thereby depriving Chenoweth of his constitutional right to counsel of his choice. Some 50-60 people jammed the courtroom on both days.

Seitz introduced an affadavit from Attorney Charles Garry- who had been in touch with Sorensen during his incarceration in the Philippines.

Garry, who was willing by not permitted to testify in person, said he was "almost positive" that Seitz would be in "real, physical danger" if he attempted to return to the Philippines.

The prosecution siad that Seitz's arguments were "make-weight" and "personally oriented," and implied that if Seitz was really concerned about his client he would "assume the necessary risks of associating with the [military law] system," and would not be balking at going to the Philippines for the remainder of the trial.

If the Court of Military Appeals turns down Seitz's request to hear the case immediately or if it rules in favor of the government, Seitz will take the case into the federal courts. Should the Federal Courts reject the appeal, Pat Chenoweth will be shipped out to the Phillippines to face a general ourt martial without the counsel of his choice.

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Thanks to Pat Chenoweth Defense Committee for this story.

@@##@#

"I DIDN'T KNOW POLICE OPERATED LIKE THAT IN AMERICA"
MASS. POLICE RAID THE WRONG HOUSE

LIBERATION News Service

WINTHROP, MASS. (LNS)--At 10 a.m. on a Tuesday in January, 15 men dressed in conservative business suits and carrying guns smashed through the front and back doors of the Pine family's home in Winthrop, Mass.

They shoved Mrs. Phyllis Pine onto a couch next to her 13 year old daughter, Melody. Both cried out, "Please don't kill us, please don't kill us." "Just don't move," the gunmen answered.

Bill Pine, who works nights, was awakened by a gun pressed to his temple. "Get up slowly and keep your hands over your head," he was told.

Then, 15 minutes after they had come, the gunmen turned and rushed out of the house. Mr. Pine followed them asking over and over who they were and what they wanted.

"State police," was the reply he finally got. The 15 men were local and state police and federal narcotics agents banded together to make a surprise drug bust on a house whose occupants had been under surveillance for two months. The house is next door to the Pine home.

During the entire episode, these police officers never identified themselves, never showed a warrant, and in fact, according to the Pine family's story, behaved like crazed murderers.

"Had Mr. Pine owned a gun, could he have been blamed for opening fire in the face of unknown armed invaders?" the New York Times asked in an editorial condemning the raid.

The Times raised a point which, if carried further, brings to mind the "shootouts" of the past in which the police righteously assert that the occupants of a house--most often in a black or Latin neighborhood--shot at them without provocation, usually "forcing them" to respond in kind. If police in those situations behaved like the Winthrop and Massachusetts State police, the whole concept of the "shootout" might be in question.

The Pines have begun legal action against the police involved. Mrs. Pine, whose grandparents were

murdered by Nazi stormtroopers in a similar raid in Poland 30 years ago, said "I didn't know police operated like that in America."

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IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS
DRAGNET RAIDS IN NEW YORK CITY

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)--If you've been walking on New York City streets in the last six months, and you happen to look like you might be Latin American, you've stood a fair chance of being picked up in one of the Immigration Department's dragnet raids.

**On July 11, 1972, Immigration authorities stopped passersby on a Corona, Queens street and arrested 35 Latins The officers termed the raid "routine."

**On a downtown Manhattan street, on October 16, 1972, agents stopped "about 100 passersby who were either Blacks or by speech or mode of dress not native born citizens of the U.S.; about 10 or more carloads of people so questioned were taken away," said a report from the Association of Immigration and Nationality Lawyers, a group who specialize in the rights of non U.S. citizens living in the United States.

**On December 12, 1972, at a subway station in Queens, 64 persons, most of them Latin Americans, were arrested.

These interrogations and arrests are clearly unconstitutional; the constitution makes no distinction between "citizen" and "non-citizen." It protects all people from "unreasonable search and seizure " Arrest must be based on probable cause and it is obviously impossible to determine by looking at someone whether he or she is an alien, an illegal alien, or an employed illegal alien.

Immigration officials, and those newspapers who have bothered to cover the raids at all, justify these raids on the grounds that illegal residents are taking jobs away from U.S. citizens. They further assert that Labor Unions have been pressuring Immigration authorities to take action against illegal aliens

These claims have a familiar ring to many who have seen them dragged out each time the U.S. faced serious unemployment and economic difficulties. It always was easier to use alien workers as scapegoats than it was to deal with unemployment or falling wages.

For example, in 1929 at the onset of the Depression, demands for alien control legislation began to mount. By 1939, some 70 anti-alien bills had been introduced in Congress

1940 saw the passage of the Alien Registration Act and by 1950 the Internal Security Act was passed, requiring the annual registration of non-citizens.

In 1952, the Immigration and Nationality Act (Walter McCarran) set up a law requiring non-citizens to carry a card to be shown on demand to police and other officials.

All throughout this period the rise and fall of immigration quotas fluctuated along with the economy--increasing when business needed more unskilled labor and decreasing when jobs got tight.

Now, faced with persistent high unemployment and inflation, the Nixon administration has joined the hue and cry, preferring to pin the blame on illegal aliens rather than on its economic policies.

The White House has proposed a bill (HR 2328, Secs. 26 and 28) which would jail aliens working without a permit as well as the employers who hire them. However, some influential sectors of the labor movement, whom Nixon is trying to woo in this way, are not buying this rationale.

At their April 1972 constitutional convention, the United Auto Workers resolved that: "...The proposal is merely another chapter in Nixon's program of economic depression and political repression. We urge the defeat of any measure that would further intensify the second-class status of the foreign-born Americans "

The Board of Fur, Leather and Machine Workers Unions, AFL-CIO, pointed out in a resolution: "Unemployment and rising relief costs...will not be solved by pitting native born workers against foreign born, but rather by measures that will provide jobs and security for ALL Americans "

To help distinguish non-citizens from citizens, a member of the House Immigration Committee, Congressman McKevitt (Rep.,Col.) and Immigration Commissioner Raymond F. Farrell have urged that U.S. citizens be required to have a citizen's identification card. But other members of the House Immigration Committee--Congressman Dennis (Rep., Ind.), Eilberg (Dem., Penna.) and Seiberling (Dem., Ohio)--have voiced violent objections, saying that such a requirement would be a step toward "a police state."

And Congressman Herman Badillo (Dem., N.Y.) announced plans on January 12 to call upon the House Committee on Immigration to launch a Congressional investigation of these New York City raids in which citizens and aliens alike have been stopped on their way to work.

For more information on the bill, contact: The American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, 49 East 21st St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. (212) 674-5058.

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(Thanks to the Association of Immigration and Nationality Lawyers for info in this)

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Please, folks, we're still broke, and the January billing hasn't been coming in like a landslide So, do what you can-- we need you!

COURT REDUCES CHARGES AGAINST CAMP McCOY 3 IN EXCHANGE FOR PLEA OF GUILTY

MADISON, Wisc. (LNS)--"We're pretty happy about it," said a spokeswoman for the Camp McCoy 3 Defense Committee, referring to the government's recent reduction of charges against three GIs accused of the 1970 bombing of a power station, water works and telephone exchange at Camp McCoy.

"Of course it's not a total victory - that would have been if the government had dropped all the charges, but under the circumstances it was the best we could hope for."

Two of the GI's, Steve Gelden and Tom Chase, originally faced four charges - conspiracy to destroy government property, destruction of government property and the possession and use of an unregistered destructive device. These charges carried with them maximum fines of $30,000 and 35 years in a federal prison.

The third defendant, Dannie Krebs, was dropped from the case several months ago because the governmnet failed to tell him of his fifth amendment rights before a grand jury. However Krebs has been under the threat of reindictment at any time.

But during the third week in January, the government offered to drop the major charges if all three men would plead guilty to attempted arson and destruction of government property of less than $100. These two charges carry with them a maximum fine of $100 and two and a half years in prison.

Ever since the three men (well known on base for their efforts to build a servicemen's union) were indicted for the bombings in February of 1971, the defense has maintained that the case against them is only part of a concerted government campaign against the anti-war movement.

They reasoned that the government wanted to use the spectre of the Camp McCoy Three trial, in combination with other similar trials, to intimidate GI's from protesting within the army and so curb the growing dissent in the military over the Vietnam war and the general lack of servicemen's rights.

The defense cited two other cases, among many, as examples: the trial of Billie Dean Smith, a black GI stationed in Vietnam who was eventually acquitted of fragging (blowing up officers, usually, and in this particular case, with hand grenades), and the upcoming conspiracy trial of the Gainesville 8, Vietnam Veterans currently accused of planning to violently disrupt the Republican National Convention.

"We feel that the government was really pressured into reducing the charges," Peggy Teden, spokeswoman explained. "If this had been just three GIs alone, without support, the government would have railroaded them right through with 35 years.

"But we distributed 200,000 leaflets in the Madison area alone, and close to 5000 posters. We had demonstrations and picket lines. The courtroom was always packed."

"They (the government) did their best to harass us--there were 13 arrests in the defense committee for things like not having ID, using a bullhorn illegally and putting up posters. Of course everyone puts up posters, but the minute we walked out the door we were stopped."

Together, the three defendants and their attorney made the decision to plead guilty. "It's a decision that's difficult for people to understand," said Peggy Teden. "People think--if you plead guilty, then you did it. But that is assuming that there's justice in a court of law and we don't believe that. A deal really has nothing to do with guilt or innocence.

"Tom, Steve and Dannie stand by their innocence and if there had been any way to get an acquital, they would have gone for it. But it looked like there was really no way unless they could prove who did do it.

"The prosecution had 68 witnesses ready to testify, to fill in tiny bits and pieces needed to substaintiate their one main witness who had spun a fantastic tale. No one alone had enough evidence to convict them but the sheer bulk of testimony would have swayed the jury, given who they were.

March 15 has been set as the deadline for the setting of a sentencing date. The defense is pushing for less than the maximum sentence and it is possible that the three will get off with three or four months in jail or parole.

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(thanks to the Camp McCoy 3 defense committee for this information)

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WHO'S WATCHING THE WATCHDOG? FCC VIOLATES ITS OWN WIRETAPPING REGULATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS)--The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), our guardian of the airways, was recently accused of tapping its employees' telephone calls by a subcommittee of the House Commerce Commission. The bugging was in direct violation of a 1965 Presidential order and regulation of the FCC itself, issued in 1961 which prohibits telephone monitoring without the permission of at least one of the persons involved.

The Subcommittee on Investigations accused the FCC of secretly monitoring telephone lines of FCC employees in early 1970. The monitoring was ordered after an "FCC employee informant" told the FCC's security officer, Fred Goldsmith, that he suspected an employee of giving confidential information to a local attorney.

The subcommittee added that Mr. Goldsmith monitored in coming and outgoing calls but heard only conversations that were "trivial in nature and in no way incriminating."

FCC Chairman Dean Burch admitted the monitoring seemed to violate the 1961 FCC regulation, but said he was unaware of that rule when the surveillance was authorized.

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GOT NEWS? CALL LNS -- (212) 749-2200 THAT'S US!

RENAULT GUARD PULLS LIGHT SENTENCE FOR THE MURDER OF YOUNG FRENCH FACTORY WORKER

LIBERATION News Service

PARIS (LNS)--It was almost one year ago, on February 25, 1972, that Jean-Antoine Tramoni, a guard at the 100,000-worker Renault factory just outside Paris, shot and killed Pierre Overney, a former Renault worker who was distributing leaflets outside the factory gate. Overney's murder spurred a massive protest movement that culminated in a funeral march of hundreds of thousands of workers and students in Paris.

On January 13, 1973, Tramoni was sentenced to four years in prison for the murder, and the Renault company was required to pay damages to Overney's family.

Before the trial began there was speculation that Tramoni would get off scot-free, but the proof of the murder and intent to murder was too irrefutable to be ignored. Photographs taken on the spot by Christophe Schimmel, a young photographer working for the independent news agency, Agence de Presse Liberation, constituted the decisive evidence.

Tramoni testified that he killed Overney accidentally while surrounded and threatened by a "Maoist commando". But the photographs showed that Tramoni deliberately aimed and fired at a solitary figure--Overney.

Christophe, who was one of the main witnesses for the prosecution said afterwards that the prosecuting attorney questioned him carefully and severely at the trial, obviously trying to imply that the photos were not genuine or had not all been delivered to the court.

Schimmel said: "It was clear that the government was doing its best to cover up for Renault (a nationalized firm) and the murderer--trying to reduce their guilt. At the trial itself, all the young people were excluded from the audience... Most of the people on the benches were friends and family of Tramoni, or members of the Renault security forces."

As for the jury, he pointed out, any candidates who might have been favorably inclined toward the victim, were challenged and kept off the jury. After the final selection, the eight person jury included a factory manager, two engineers, a sales manager, a company president and a commercial agent.

The prosecutor asked for seven years for Tramoni "in view of extenuating circumstances." The court sentenced him to four years, after the jury found him guilty of "blows leading to death, without the intention of killing."

"The verdict--four years in prison--was a smart decision," commented one young observor. "The government couldn't afford to let the murderer off without a punishment. The workers and the people in general couldn't have swallowed that, and the legislative elections are going to be held in just a few weeks." (In the upcoming elections, the incumbents face a strong coalition of Socialists and Commmunists.)

No sooner had the verdict been announced than a group of some 300 leftist demonstrators, holding aloft giant portraits of Overney, marched down the boulevards of the Right Bank--to the surprise of the police who expected them in the Left Bank's Latin Quarter--in protest of the light sentence.

* * *

A significant aspect of the Tramoni trial was the attempt by Henri Leclerc, Overney's lawyer, to bring out the real nature and role of the security forces at the Renault factory where the murder occurred. From the witness stand, the Renault manager, Pierre Dreyfus, blandly denied the existence of the factory's notorious "flying squad" of strong-arm men who rush in to put down any workers' rebellion and to enforce the plant's ruthless discipline.

At that point, Overney's younger brother, Michel, sprang from the audience benches shouting "Liar! Liar!" and grabbed the manager by his lapels.

The reality of this "flying squad" was amply confirmed for the Overney family by workers at Renault who, like Pierre Overney, had been fired for their political ideas, then brutalized when they returned to distribute leaflets or explain their case to the workers.

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(Thanks to Schofield Coryell for the information in this story.)

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FILMS FROM THE THIRD WORLD

AVAILABLE FOR SHOWINGS

NEW YORK (LNS)--Tricontinental Film Center, formerly Third World Cinema Group, distributes films from Africa, Asia and Latin America for showings by political, community and university groups around the country.

Among their films from Latin America are three by Columbian film-makers Julia and Carlos Alvarez. Both directors are among more than 100 artists, intellectuals, workers, students and priests who have been arrested since last June. Julia Alvarez has been released, but Carlos remains in jail.

"Assault" documents the 1967 military invasion of the National University of Colombia; "Colombia 70" is a story of death by starvation set amidst the opulence of the capital city of Bogota. "One Day I Asked" documents the religious alienation of people who seek a miracle as the solution to their social problems. Also being distributed is "Memories of Underdevelopment," the only full length Cuban film available here.

Films can be ordered from the Center at 244 West 27th St., New York, N.Y. 10001. For more information on Latin American political prisoners contact USLA at 150 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.

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U.S. MILITARY CRACKS DOWN ON "DRUG ABUSE" ON ARMY BASES IN W. GERMANY

HEIDELBERG, W. Germany (LNS)--On January 12, several GIs stationed at the U.S. Army base in Zirndorf received copies of a form letter signed by Captain Theodore P. Mohler, their commanding officer. The letter, which dealt with "Known and/or Suspected Drug Abusers," was a page long, but you don't have to read the whole thing to get the general idea. Sections of the letter follow:

"You have been identified as an associate of a known or suspected drug abuser. As a result, the following actions are now taken:

"You will remove the door from your room and take it to the supply room.

"You are denied and lose all pass privileges.

"Your civilian and military drivers license are suspended.

"You will not wear civilian clothing under any circumstances.

"You will live in a bare room and have only a wall locker and a bed.

"You will go to the community drug and alcohol assistance center for counseling.

"You will undergo urine testing at least three times a week.

"You will live and sleep in your own room and you will not accept, buy or take anything from another person.

"The above instructions and procedures are lawful orders and violations are punishable in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

Mohler's letter was not all his own idea. It follows the suggestions outlined in a longer document, titled, "The Nelligen Anti-Drug Movement, prepared under the direction of Brigadier General Anthony R. Daskevich. Daskevich initiated the "Movement" at a meeting with his subordinate commanders on November 30, 1972, with the ostensible purpose of rooting out any and all drug usage in Nelligen, the area under his command.

The "Movement" spread to Ludwigsburg, when a few weeks later, James R. Hay, commander of the 34th Signal Battalion there issued a similar directive to his subordinates entitled simply "Drug Abuse." By the end of January the "Movement" had spread to all U.S. army bases in W. Germany.

According to Robert Rivkin and Howard J. De Nike who staff the Heidelberg office of the Lawyers Military Defense Committee (a civilian organization), these directives mean to encourage subordinate officers "to institute a multitude of illegal measures to terrorize the troops into foregoing drugs and informing on their buddies who do use drugs."

Already the Defense Committee is representing six soldiers from military units affected by the directives. Not one of the six is facing any criminal charges for sale, possession or use of drugs. But they all have been disciplined in ways that the Nelligen document recommends for "known drug pushers and users."

The Defense Committee explains that if a person was actually known to be a user or a pusher and criminal charges were brought against him then some restrictions might reasonably be placed on his activities. But what is happening in fact, as evidenced by the Mohler letter, is that GI's are deprived of legal rights, in some cases for mere association with "a known or suspected drug abuser," (however "known" is defined).

Rivkin and De Nike feel that the General Daskevich's "Movement" and Col. Hay's program actually "unleash local commanders to exercise the harassing tactics of their choice against all those men in their units whom they merely suspect of being users or pushers, thus illegal punishment without trial is officially authorized and encouraged."

Among other things, the Nelligen document recommends that a "drop box" be set up, so that anonymous accusations might be turned into the command. It recommends frequent shake-down inspections be used to halt the drug traffic.

General Daskevich's subordinate commanders are also encouraged to institute a "night anti-drug control team to patrol area nad barracks," to "look for reliable informers in your unit and reward them for information," and to insure that their "barracks guards report abnormal traffic, noisy parties and strangers in the barracks."

None of this surveillance is supposed to bother the men Daskevich calls the "good soldier" who on the contrary is expected not only to tolerate these activities but to join the "volunteers" in searching buildings "from stem to stern."

The Mohler letter threatens that anyone who does not comply with its orders is subject to court-martial but as the Defense Committee points out, the orders in the letter itself are not legal and therefore should not have to be obeyed.

The lawyers cite among others, the case of U.S. v. Adams, where the soldiers rights to privacy are described in this way:

"Generally, a military person's place of abode is the place where he bunks and keeps his few private possessions. His home is the particular place where the necessities of the service force him to live. This may be a barracks, a tent or even a foxhole. Whatever the name of his place of abode, it is his sanctuary against unlawful intrusion. It is his 'castle'."

Contrast that Military Court decision with the following incident described by Rivkin and De Nike: "One of our clients was asleep when at 2 a.m. on January 5, 1973, his first sergeant burst into his room, accompanied by the commanding officer of the company and ordered the man's door removed from its hinges immediately. The first sergeant was carrying a club, for purposes which are unclear."

The Defense Committee says that the "Drug Abuse" programs are designed to "reduce the American soldier who is suspected of using any kind of prohibited drugs from a free individual into a mere robot, a tool of his commander, a Gestapo-type informer. The excuse for all this is that the Army has a drug problem, which, in other contexts, it denies is very serious."

(CONTINUED ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER --TURN TO IT)

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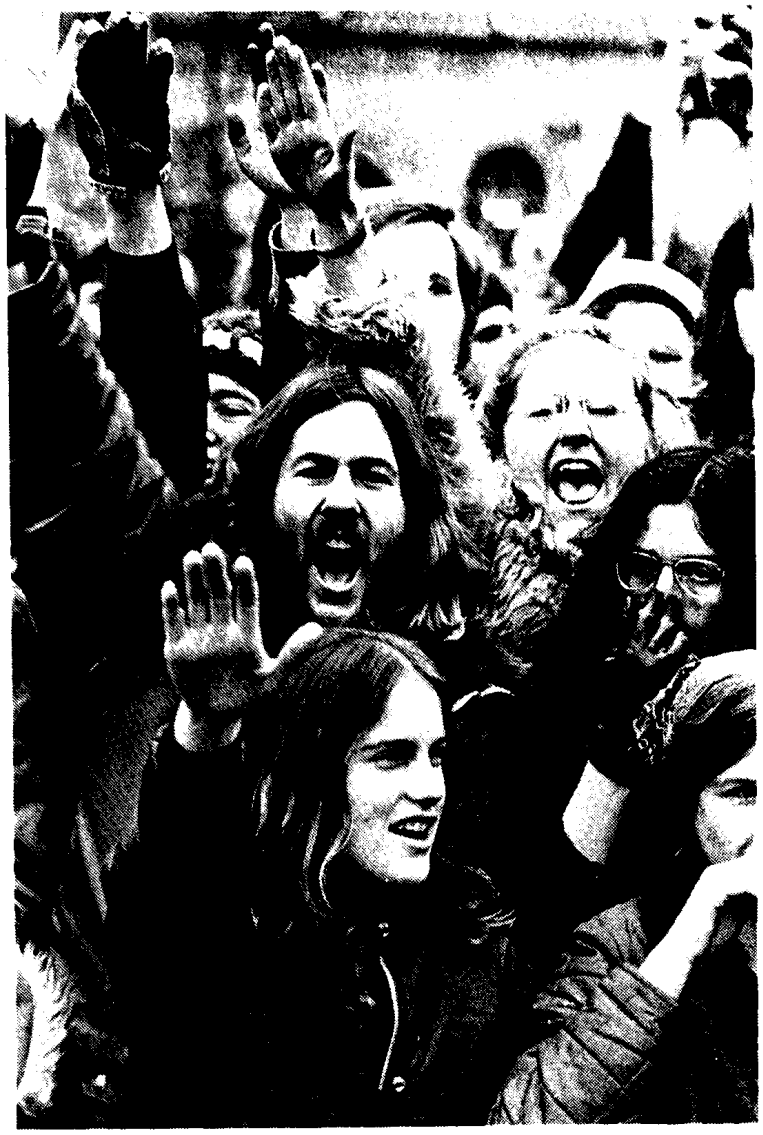


TOP RIGHT: After walking from Arlington Cemetery in the early morning VVAW march, people lined up to sign two copies of the 9-point peace proposal. One copy is being sent to the Vietnamese in Paris ans one to Congress.
CREDIT: LNS

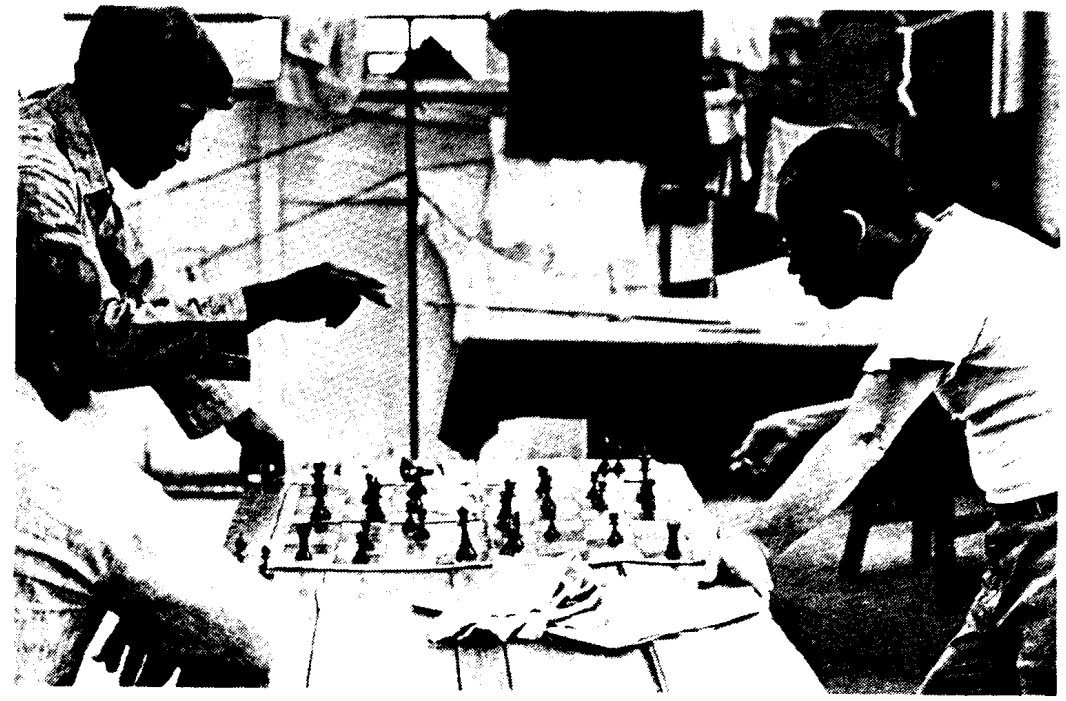
TOP LEFT: Demonstrators who lined the inaugeral parade route along Pennsylvania Avenue at about 14th street, as Nixon's motorcade went by. Garbage was thrown at the car, and later police charged and forced the demonstrators back away from the curb.
CREDIT: LNS

THE FOUR PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE WERE TAKEN AT NIXON'S INAUGERATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JANUARY 20.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 2.

BOTTOM RIGHT: One of the groups taking part in the inaugeral parade were these high school students dressed up as "Indians"--their school mascot. They were confronted with yells of "racist" as they passed demonstrators along the parade route.
CREDIT: LNS Women's Graphic Collective

BOTTOM LEFT: Spectators at the inaugeral parade.
CREDIT: LNS Women's Graphic Collective



TOP RIGHT: Prison cell
CREDIT: NAT P./LNS

The following quote by a prisoner can go with this graphic and the one below it.

"My cell is five feet by eight by eight. In that small space you got to fit a bed, table, toilet and sink. Sing Sing has the smallest cells of all the prisons, the smallest, oldest cells I've ever seen. Sometimes you can't flush your toilet and again at times the toilet will flush without pushing the button. I've wakened up in the middle of the night and found the toilet flushing."

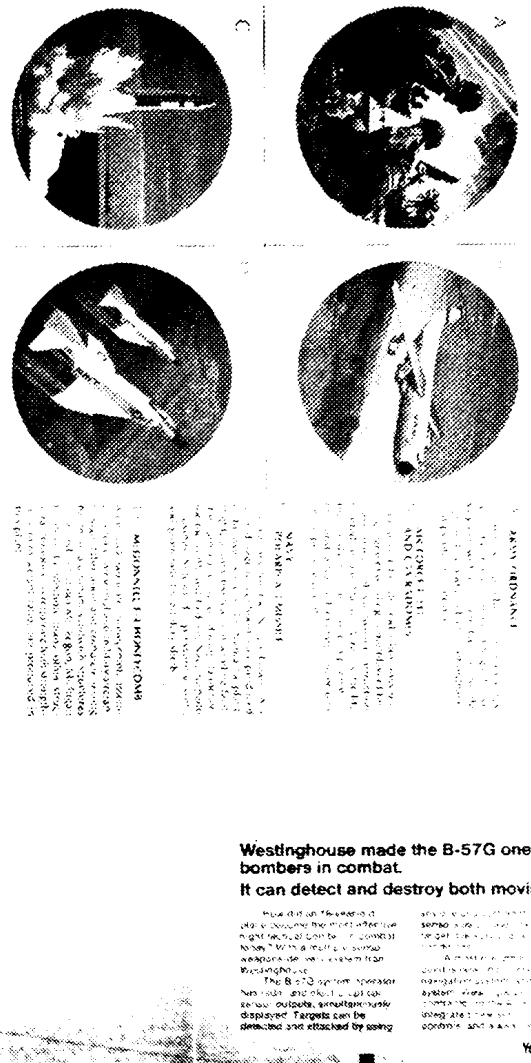
TOP LEFT: Chess in the tailor shop.
CREDIT: NAT P./LNS

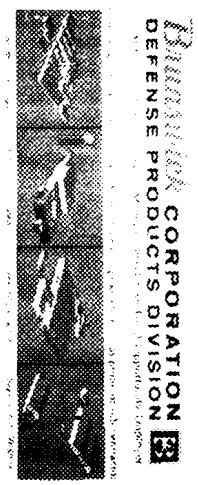
These four photographs are from the book SING SING, The View from Within--a collection of photographs taken mostly by prisoners there.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Prisoner in cell.
CREDIT: JOSE H./LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Black Solidarity Day in Sing Sing, November 1, 1971.
This photograph was taken by one of the photography instructors.
CREDIT: STEPHEN SCHOEN, THE FLOATING FOUNDATION OF PHOTOGRAPHY/LNS

defense is our name/attack is our business





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DEFENSE PRODUCTS DIVISION

Westinghouse made the B-57G one of the best night tactical bombers in combat.
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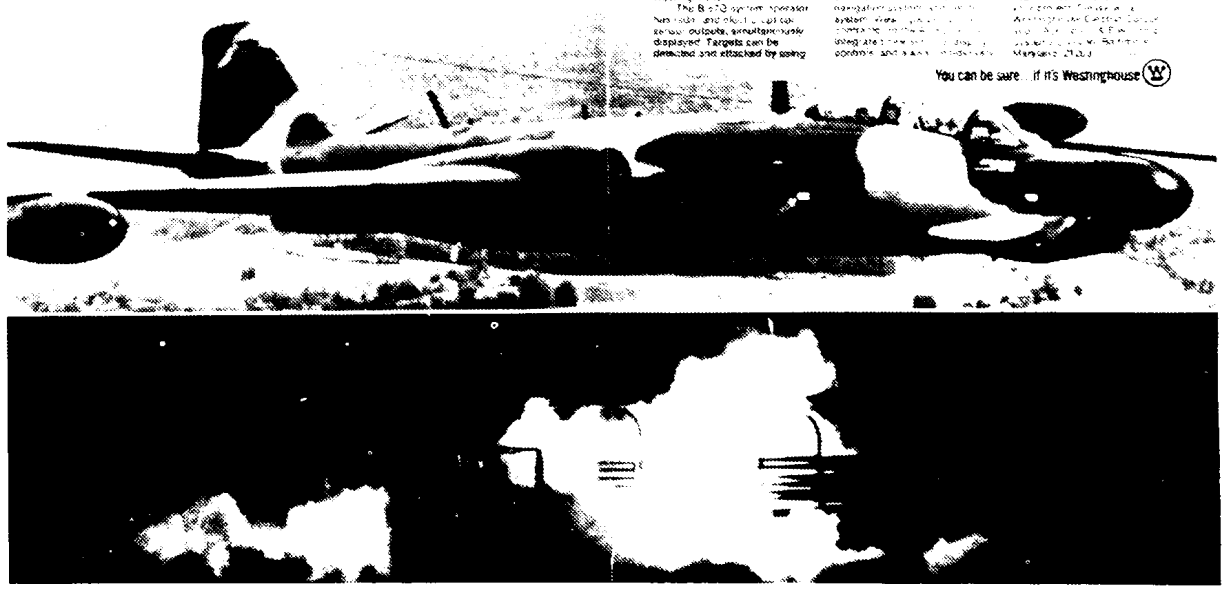

You can be sure . . . if it's Westinghouse

TOP RIGHT AND LEFT: Advertising To The Military, from Economic Priorities Report. These advertisements can go with the, "USING MADISON AVE METHODS TO INFLUENCE MILITARY FUNDING DECISIONS," story on page eight of the last packet (#495).
CREDIT: LNS

BOTTOM: Collage depicting U.S. imperialism.
CREDIT: MATS ANDERSON, KOMMENTAR/LNS